



(54) DANCING TOY LOLLIPOP

(76) Inventor: **Rodolfo Fernandez**, 308 Fulton Street,
Kings Mountain, N.C. (U.S.) 28086

(51) Int. Cl.....A23G 1/00; **A63H 17/00**

(52) U.S. Cl..... 426/104; 446/268

(58) Field of Search 426/75, 90, 104, 134;
446/71, 236, 266, 268;
294/1.1

(56) References Cited:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,536,054	7/1996	Liaw.....	294/1.1
3,264,115	8/1966	Davis.....	426/75
5,874,119	2/1999	Coleman et al.....	426/104
5,902,167	5/1999	Filo et al.....	446/81
5,921,841	7/1999	Coleman et al.....	446/267
D288,140	2/1987	Fontlladosa.....	D1/106
5,615,941	4/1997	Shecter.....	362/109
5,666,693	9/1997	Levay.....	16/114 R

5,690,535	11/1997	Coleman et al.....	446/236
5,826,997	10/1998	Coleman et al.....	401/52
5,855,500	1/1999	Coleman et al.....	446/81
D404,885	2/1999	Tomaszewski et al.....	D1/102
5,938,153	8/1999	Coleman et al.....	248/160
5,957,746	9/1999	Diamond.....	446/266
D416,371	11/1999	Mehdikahn.....	D1/104
6,027,752	2/2000	Coleman et al.....	426/134
6,054,159	4/2000	Manzone.....	426/134
6,074,266	6/2000	Zak.....	446/73
6,090,420	7/2000	Coleman et al.....	426/104
6,103,278	8/2000	Lluch.....	426/9 D
6,177,110 B1	1/2001	Chan.....	426/90
6,471,364 B1	10/2002	Plante.....	362/34
6,485,348 B2	11/2002	Diresta.....	446/73
D468,513 S	1/2003	Wolfe et al.....	D1/104

DANCING TOY LOLLIPOP

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

(Not Applicable)

STATEMENT REGARDING FED. SPONSORED R & D

(Not Applicable)

REFERENCE TO SEQUENCE LISTING

(Not Applicable)

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates to lollipops and, particularly, to the way in which the lollipops edible part is assembled to a stick, replacing the single edible part tightly fixed to a stick with one or more edible and/or inedible independent pieces loosely assembled to said stick and free to move in relation to it, allowing their separate production and the creation of a great variety of designs, and, as alternative, the packaging and distribution of unassembled lollipops to be assembled in diverse combinations by the user, and at the same time, the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention can be used as a simple toy which performs dancing like motions when the user manually shakes it or moves it in different ways.

[0002] In their simple basic form, lollipops have been known for long time, and many different inventions have been developed regarding this type of candy. The lollipop consumption has been growing year after year, and their fields of use have been diversified, including pharmaceutical products and other edible confectioneries and toys.

[0003] Despite the numerous innovations and devices related to lollipops that have been created, one characteristic has remained unchanged in all of them: the tight attachment of a candy or edible piece at one end of a disposable holding stick or a holder stem. Therefore, consumers have enjoyed sucking, licking or biting the edible piece rigidly attached to a stick, what provides several advantages such as, for example, when the user wants to speak or drink some beverage, may easily take out the candy from his/her mouth and hold it safely in the meantime, but with the limitations to enjoy it imposed by its rigid connection to a holding element. That rigid connection between the edible piece and its holding stick or stem, limits its movements inside the mouth, in comparison to common candies, without a stick rigidly attached.

[0004] Consequently, many patents and designs have been issued for improvements and novelties, and a great variety of designs has been introduced in the field of lollipops, but, according to our search, those patents have been always related to lollipops with fixed and rigid union between the edible piece and a stick or a holder stem.

[0005] The main property of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, is that the lollipop edible pieces are loosely assembled to the lollipop stick, and due to that significant difference in comparison to known lollipops, the present invention constitutes the creation of a new kind of lollipop, which allows more pleasant free movements inside the consumer's mouth, almost like common candies and, in addition, may be moved like a simple toy by the user's hand, increasing his/her pleasure.

[0006] The sticks and the movable edible parts of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention may be independently and separately produced, propitiating the development of much more configuration alternatives for these main components of lollipops.

[0007] Some patents have been issued for lollipops with flexible or elastic sticks, or holding sticks with slits, but in all cases, the inventions are also consistently referred to candies tightly attached around one end of a stick.

[0008] On the other hand, in order to increase the user's amusement while consuming lollipops, many different types of driving holders, some of them included in the references above, have been invented to provide the candy with different motions, sounds, and/or illumination patterns.

[0008.1] However, in all patented candy holders, when the author claims any novel elements or features apparently similar in name or function to some mentioned in the present invention, such elements or features are completely different in location, function and purpose, due to the fact that they refer to candy holders which are intended to transmit amusing movements to conventional or novelty lollipops rigidly attached to sticks which are inserted to said driving candy holders and, in general, to candies securely attached to holding devices.

[0008.02] Therefore, when Liaw, in his Lollypop holder, US patent No. 5,536,054 issued on July 1996, teaches what at first sight looks like a dancing toy lollipop, and mentions a movable candy, an upper end portion and an open cavity, said upper end portion is located at the top end of his candy holder and said open cavity is located in said upper end portion, being its purpose to receive the free end of the stick of a conventional lollipop or novelty confectionery, in order to make the candy lollipop, as a whole, to perform a certain pattern of motion caused by the candy holder, which is the object of his invention. In the present invention, wherein the object is not a driving candy holder, but a simple lollipop with innovative features to be manually moved, the cavity is located inside the edible part of a new type of lollipop, and its purpose is to provide an opening for its loose assembling to the lollipop stick, thereby transforming the edible piece into a movable element relative to the lollipop stick, when the candy is manually moved in different ways by the user, while, in turn, the lollipop stick is converted into a holding

stick, which is an independent disposable or reusable holding element for the movable edible pieces.

[0008.03] Hence, when Liaw teaches the candy holder with all its components, he refers to the main object of his invention, which is to hold and actively cause the movement of conventional lollipops or confectioneries as a whole, by means of the candy holder, which is in fact a certain type of battery powered driving device.

[0008.04] For the same reasons, when Liaw and others mention and describe retaining means, they refer to elements located in the cavity of a candy driving holder device, with the purpose of retaining securely in position the holding stick of conventional or novelty lollipops inserted into the holder device cavity or, alternately, in the case of candy holders with male holding elements in the form of stems, they refer to secure means to retain tightly and securely attached candy pieces of female configuration to match the holder stem, while in the present invention, the retaining means are located on the stick of the lollipop, and their purpose is to retain one or more movable edible pieces of the lollipop loosely assembled to said lollipop holding stick, and not to any driving holder device.

[0008.05] In the present invention, the retaining means of the holding stick, combined with the interior cavity of the movable edible pieces, instead of the usual tight union, provide a loose or articulated union between both basic components of lollipops, in order to allow, in a passive way, a great variety of free motions of the edible pieces of the lollipop in relation to its holding stick, when the candy toy is conveniently moved by the user's hand.

[0008.06] Coleman et al. have patented many different candy holders devices, such as the Novelty candy holder and dispenser, US patent No. 5,874,119, issued on February 1999; the Swirlee pop, US patent No.5,921,841, issued on July 1999; the Nearly headless noisemaker candy toy, US patent No.6,402,580, issued on June 2002, and many others with a great variety of innovations, but all of them refer to driving candy holders, battery

or manually powered, whose main purpose is to securely hold lollipops or novelty candies and actively cause their movement in diverse amusing patterns, thereof their innovative features are always related to driving holding devices.

[0008.07] Filo et al. invented a Sound-transmitting amusement device and method, US patent No.5,902,167 issued on May1999, but his invention comprises sound emission devices, related like in the previously mentioned inventions, to candy holders as separate devices to which current lollipops and other confectioneries are connected in different ways.

[0008.08] Contrary to Liaw's, Coleman's and many other inventions, which refer to candy holders driving devices, the present invention refers to a simple lollipop with an edible piece assembled to a holding stick almost as in conventional lollipops, but with the essential difference that, instead of being tight and rigid as in conventional lollipops, the union between the edible piece and the stick is loose or articulated, in order to allow, and not to cause, as most lollipops holders do, the free movement of the edible piece in relation to said holding stick, when the candy, alone as a whole, is subjected to movement caused by the user's hand holding the stick of the lollipop, as a simple funny toy, or by the user's tongue, inside his/her mouth, when the dancing toy lollipop is licked and/or sucked by the user, almost as easily as common candies not rigidly attached to a stick as known lollipops are.

[0008.09] More related to the present invention is the Safety Lollipop, invented by Davis, US patent No.3,264,115, issued on August 1966, comprising a novel lollipop articulated stick, since it refers to a novel lollipop candy and not to a holding driving device. However, in his invention, the edible part of the lollipop is also tightly attached to the holding stick, as usual in known lollipops. Therefore the only similarity between Davis' invention and the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention is that both refer to the same general field of lollipops or candies provided with holding elements.

[0009] In general, although candy holders undoubtedly play an important roll to make lollipops more attractive, contributing to their market expansion, lollipop holders and driving devices are relatively complex and expensive, what highlights the relevance of the innovation introduced by the present invention, consisting in a rather simple lollipop, wherein the edible part of the lollipop is loosely assembled to the lollipop stick, in such a way, that it combines some of the advantages of common candies without stick, with the advantages of lollipops provided with holding sticks, but adding special features to improve the user's amusement. .

[0009.01] One of the main additional features of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, is that its edible part may be sucked, licked and moved inside the user's mouth almost like a common candy, without the limitations imposed by the rigid union to a stick or to a candy holder device, as in known or prior art lollipops, increasing the user's joy and pleasure.

[0009.02] Other feature of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention is that it behaves like a very simple toy, when the user manually moves it in different ways, making the movable pieces, loosely assembled to the stick, perform funny random motions, like a sort of dancing, increasing his/her amusement.

[0010] Furthermore, the present invention is so easy to assemble, that it gives to the manufacturers the option to package and supply the lollipops in kits with the components unassembled, possibly reducing production costs and, at the same time, giving the user the opportunity to create different lollipops combinations, assembling to the holding stick in random order, either single or multiple edible and/or inedible pieces with diverse sizes, shapes, colors and flavors in one same lollipop.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] In known lollipops, usually a single candy or edible piece is firmly attached to one end of a stick, and both components are manufactured and supplied assembled as a whole.

[0012] It is an object of the present invention, to create a new and different kind of lollipop, comprising one or more edible and/or inedible pieces assembled to a modified lollipop stick, so transformed into a holding stick, being said pieces loose and free to move in diverse ways in relation to the holding stick, and converted, in turn, into movable edible pieces, facilitating the sucking and licking of said movable edible pieces by the action of the consumer's tongue inside his/her mouth, almost like common candies without rigidly inserted sticks as known lollipops.

[0012.01] Other object of the present invention is to create a lollipop that, at the same time, constitutes a simple manually movable toy for the user's amusement, usually a child, driven just by his/her active hand movements, without the aid of mechanical and/or battery powered electrical holders, which generally are relatively complex and expensive.

[0013] Still other object of the present invention is to make possible for confectioneries manufacturers, to produce a new and different kind of lollipop wherein the holding stick and the other components of the lollipop may be produced independently, using current manufacturing processes and without the requirement of new or sophisticated technologies, including as a significant advantage, that the different components of the dancing toy lollipop may be packaged and supplied unassembled as separate parts, which could be manually assembled by the customer very easily with a great variety and many combinations of colors, flavors and configurations.

[0014] - [0016] (~~DELETED~~)

[0017] One advantage of the present invention, as a result of its main objects and features, is that it makes economically and technically feasible to manufacture, by well known manufacturing processes, holding sticks of several suitable materials, eventually reusable, with many different configurations, from the simplest to relatively complex shapes, including, but not limited to, ramified holding sticks with two, three or more branches resembling plant stems, stylized rattlesnake like holding sticks, which may be bent and wound at will by the user, etc., to which may be assembled similar or different movable edible pieces, resembling dancing dolls, Halloween pumpkins, stylized rattlesnake disks, fruits or flowers or any other configurations.

[0018] - [0019] (~~DELETED~~)

[0020] Another advantage of the present invention is that it can be provided with independent inedible components which may have the additional function of finger guards, preventing the direct contact between the user's fingers and the edible parts, contributing to a cleaner and more hygienic handling of the dancing toy lollipop while it is consumed.

[0021] The assembling procedures of the movable pieces to the holding sticks by the users are emphasized in the description because an important feature of this invention is that the user has the option to assemble very easily customized combinations of edible and inedible decorative components, which may be supplied separately wrapped inside packaged kits, being such options an interesting feature to some users who are fond of the "do it yourself" fashion, thus improving the amusement and entertainment inherent to this new kind of lollipops.

[0021.01] All components and the assembly of all possible alternate designs of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention are feasible by means of very well known conventional manufacturing processes and materials, since none of its elements

or features requires the development and use of any kind of sophisticated, special or new technologies or materials.

[0022] These features and advantages, and some others, will become evident to those skilled in the art, and with basic knowledge in design, through the figures and descriptions illustrating the present invention, which refers to an innovative kind of lollipop.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] FIGS. 1A to 1E illustrate two relatively simple embodiments of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with single movable edible pieces, one of them with the simplest variation to the current lollipops stick, consisting in a socket attachment. This figure also shows how simply the manufacturer or the user may assemble this kind of lollipop.

[0024] FIGS. 2A and 2B illustrate another relatively simple embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention and its components in exploded and assembled views.

[0025] FIG. 3 illustrates an alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with one movable edible piece integrated by two halves.

[0026] FIG. 4 illustrates an alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with a cylindrical movable edible piece assembled to a holding stick.

[0027] FIG. 5 illustrates an alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with a holding stick provided with a mechanically assembled movable piece, around which is molded a movable edible piece.

[0028] FIGS. 6A thru 6I illustrate in magnified detail views, some different alternate configurations of upper portions of holding sticks, provided with several possible embodiments of retaining means located at the top end and at intermediate and lower positions, that may be used in diverse possible embodiments of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention.

[0029] **FIGS. 7A to 7H** illustrate two alternate embodiments of holding sticks and two alternate embodiments of a sliding retaining element, which may be used in different embodiments of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention.

[0030] **FIGS. 8A to 8H** illustrate in axial section views several alternate configurations of movable edible pieces that can be used in different embodiments of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention.

[0031] **FIGS. 9A to 9C** illustrate an alternate preferred embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with two movable edible pieces.

[0032] **FIGS. 10A to 10 C** illustrate enlarged partial section views related to the preferred embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention previously shown in **FIGS. 9A thru 9C**, and a possible way in which the retaining means are elastically deformed during the assembling of the movable edible pieces to the holding stick, what can be performed either by the manufacturer or the user.

[0033] **FIGS. 11A to 11C** illustrate another simple alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with a single movable edible piece shaped like a sphere.

[0034] **FIGS. 12A and 12B** illustrate an alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with three movable edible pieces with different geometric shapes.

[0035] - [0038] (~~DELETED~~)

[0039] **FIGS. 13A thru ~~13D~~ 13C**, illustrate an external perspective and front views of an alternate preferred embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, resembling a little dancing doll supported on a rocking base.

[0040] FIGS. 14A thru ~~14E~~ 14D illustrate another alternate preferred embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, resembling a little dancing doll, with a supporting stationary base.

[0041] FIG. 15 illustrates other possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with a ramified holding stick resembling a plant stem with leaves, and three movable edible pieces resembling little fruits, one on each holding stick end tip.

[0042] FIG 16 illustrates another possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with a ramified holding stick resembling a plant stem with leaves, similar to that shown in **FIG. 19**, but with the three movable edible pieces resembling little flowers at each end tip of the holding stick.

[0043] FIG. 17 illustrates another possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention with an alternate ramified embodiment of the holding stick and three movable edible pieces, resembling inverted little bells.

[0044] FIG. 18 illustrates another possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with a different ramified holding stick configured as a trident, provided with crimped holding attachments at each tip, to which are assembled movable edible pieces, with the configuration of little spheres.

[0045] - [0046]-(DELETED)

[0047] FIGS.19A and 19B illustrate another possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, showing the position displacement of several movable edible pieces stacked onto a holding stick and supported by a sliding retaining element.

[0048] **FIG. 20** illustrates in central and lateral oscillating displaced positions, a possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, which comprises a resilient holding stick and several movable edible pieces.

[0049] **FIG. 21** illustrates a possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention similar to that shown in **FIG. 26**, but with a grip portion attachment resembling a stylized rattlesnake partially wound to form a standing support.

[0050] **FIGS. 22A and 22B** illustrate an alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, comprising a main or primary holding stick with several movable attachments and multiple secondary short holding sticks with movable edible pieces assembled to each of them.

[0051] ~~(DELETED)~~

[0052] **FIGS. 23A and 23B** illustrate a possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, previously shown in **FIG. 18A**, encased under a protecting transparent cover.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0053] The dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, like conventional lollipops, comprises at least two basic components although may have many supplementary components, which as an attractive option can be manually assembled and combined very easily by the costumer without any tool. The two basic components are: a holding stick and a candy or edible piece attached to one end of the holding stick. However, contrary to conventional lollipops, the union between both components is not rigid, but loose or articulate, due to a special interior cavity inside the candy or edible piece and one or more sets of retaining means, integrated to the holding stick or assembled to it, which match within said interior cavity to retain both basic components in the desired axial position relative to each other, but, at the same time, leaving sufficient free space between the matching elements to allow the movement in relation to the holding stick of the assembled edible piece, so converted into movable edible piece, when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently moved by the user's hand.

[0054] The term holding stick is preferred instead of the term lollipop stick because in the present invention, though this main part of the lollipop can be almost as simple as in known lollipops, it is provided with special miniature retaining means, and this particular feature turns it into an innovative element, different to those used in current lollipops, and which can be eventually washable and reusable.

[0055] As explained above, the holding stick and the edible part of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention may be apparently similar to those used currently either in traditional or in novelty lollipops, but instead of a rigid tight union between the holding stick and the edible pieces, in the present invention these are loose and free to move with respect to the holding stick, when the user manually moves the dancing toy lollipop, while, at the same time, said movable edible pieces remain retained on the holding stick by appropriate retaining means, which are either integral part of said holding stick or separate elements attached to it.

[0056] Throughout the description of the invention, the components equivalent to the edible part in conventional lollipops are referred to as movable edible pieces, because, as explained above, the main feature of the present invention, is that said parts are movable in relation to the holding stick, differing from known lollipops, in which the edible parts are molded around and tightly fixed to an end of a stick.

[0057] The movable pieces in the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention can be edible or inedible, because some of them may be made of non-toxic inedible plastic or any other suitable material. When edible, the movable pieces may be either candies or medicinal confectioneries. When the movable edible pieces are candies, they may have either regular or dietetic, and when medicinal, they may have either prophylactic or therapeutic purposes.

[0058] The retaining means may be resilient or articulated elements or rigid stops. The resilient or articulated elements, in turn, may be unidirectional or bi-directional, with many different configurations, provided that they accomplish their function retaining in reliable axial positions the movable edible pieces, but at the same time allowing their free movement in relation to the holding stick when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently moved by the user's hand.

[0059] Both kinds of retaining means, resilient elements and rigid stops, may adopt many different shapes, and may be located in different positions on the holding stick.

[0060] The function of the resilient retaining elements located immediately at the upper end of the holding stick is to allow the entry of movable pieces and, at the same time, prevent them from sliding up and out of said holding stick.

[0061] The function of the bi-directional resilient retaining elements is to retain one or more movable edible pieces in the desired positions on the holding stick, but allowing

the axial displacement of said movable edible pieces in both directions, requiring little effort by the user.

[0062] The retaining means may be of different types, such as resilient or articulated latches or flaps or rigid stops, and may adopt many configurations. Therefore, they may be referred to, indistinctly, as retaining means or elements, resilient retaining means or elements, resilient latches, retainers, etc.

[0063] ~~(DELETED)~~

[0064] All components of the present invention, in all their possible variations, can be produced using current manufacturing processes, which allow high rates of production, are reliable and highly efficient, and are very well known in the fields of confectionery and injection molding. Neither new nor special or sophisticated processes or materials are required for the development and introduction in production of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention.

[0065] In the consecutive drawings, the elements or parts of elements are designated with combinations of three or more digits. The last two digits at the right, followed or not by a lower case letter or prime symbols, are related to the function or type of element or part of element, rather than to its configuration, since there are a great number of different possible shapes for the same type of component. The remaining digits to the left identify the number of the figure where an element or part of element with the same configuration was referred to for the first time throughout the detailed description of the invention. When two or more elements of the same type and function, but with different configuration, are referred to in a same figure or group of figures, since all the digits will be the same, one of them will be identified adding a lower case letter or a prime symbol at the right end of its designation. On the other hand, for the indications of movement, dotted line arrows are used, designated by a capital **M** followed by consecutive numbers, which are repeated in different figures, whenever the movements are of the same type

and direction. To designate sections, details and directions of views, consecutive not repeated roman numbers are used.

[0066] All main features of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, are explained in the detailed description of the illustrative drawings; however, the possible embodiments of the components of the present invention may be much more diversified than those shown in the following figures.

[0067] FIGS. 1A thru 1E illustrate two different simple possible embodiments of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with two different holding sticks combined with two different configurations of movable edible pieces and holding sticks attachments.

[0068] In FIG. 1A is shown an axial section view during the process of assembling by the user of a possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, which comprises a holding stick 101, substantially similar to the cylindrical holding stick used in common lollipops, but at whose top end is securely fixed the holding stick attachment 101a. In this embodiment the holding stick attachment 101a is of female type, provided with a socket 110 and is securely attached to the top end of the stick 101 by the notches 111, crimped on the socket 110 of the holding stick attachment 101a after its assembling. The top end 103 of said attachment 101a is rounded to facilitate the assembling of the single movable edible piece 102, which has spherical shape in this case. The holding stick attachment 101a is provided with upper resilient retaining elements 104, consisting in this case, in a couple of thin rounded fin like tiny flexible elements protruding to opposite sides of said holding stick attachment which, in addition, is also provided with a lower retainer consisting in a stop 105. The upper retaining elements 104 are immediately adjacent to the top end 103, and the lower stop 105 is located at short distance below, forming a neck space 106 between both of them. In this view, the movable edible piece 102 is shown axially sectioned, in a momentary axial position, during its assembling to the holding stick 101, combining a downward

displacement with a twisting clockwise motion, as indicated by the arrows **M1** and **M2**, respectively, in a sort of a combined helical movement. At the position illustrated, a constrained interior circular edge or throat **109**, at the bottom of the tapered interior cavity **108** in the movable edible piece **102**, is passing over the resilient retaining elements **104**, elastically bending clockwise both opposite round flexible retaining elements **104** inwardly toward the holding stick axis to allow the assembling of the movable edible piece **102** to the holding stick attachment **101a**. This innovative lollipop includes among its main features that it may be custom assembled by the consumer him-(her)- self, though it may also be assembled by the manufacturer of the main components.

[0069] In **FIG. 1B** is shown a magnified section view of the embodiment shown in **FIG. 1A** through the plane designated by the line **I-I** in the same figure. In this view can be observed a magnified cross section of the lower portion of the movable edible piece **102** during its assembling, at an instant in which the upper resilient retaining elements **104** are elastically bent clockwise inwardly toward the axis of the holding stick attachment **101a**, so that the outer distance from tip to tip of the opposite fin like elements is momentarily reduced and substantially equal to the diameter of the throat **109** in the movable edible piece **102**.

[0070] In **FIG. 1C** is shown an elevation view, looking in the direction indicated by the arrow **II** in **FIG. 1A**, of the same possible embodiment previously shown in **FIGS. 1A** and **1B**, held by the user's hand **100**, with the movable edible piece **102** viewed in axial section, already assembled in its final position, wherein the throat **109**, at the bottom of the interior cavity **108**, is engaged at the neck space **106**, being retained said movable edible piece **102** in axial position by the resilient retaining elements **104** and the lower stop **105** on the holding stick attachment **101a**, in such a way, that said movable edible piece is free to rock, tilt and/or rotate to any side in relation to the holding stick **101**, as indicated by the arrow **M3** and illustrated by the dashed line contours, when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently moved by the user's hand **100**.

[0071] The resting position of the movable edible piece depends upon the height of its center of gravity relative to its throat or plane of support. When the throat or plane of support is lower than the center of gravity, as in the case of the embodiment illustrated in **FIGS 1A to 1C**, the normal resting position of the movable edible piece is inclined or tilted to a side. When the throat or plane of support is higher than, or coincident with, the center of gravity, as in other embodiments that will be shown further, the resting position of the movable edible pieces may be centered.

[0072] **FIG 1D** is a top view of the same embodiment shown in **FIG. 1C**.

[0073] In **FIG. 1E** is shown an axial section view of an alternate simple embodiment of the present invention, in which the holding stick **101'** consists in a hollow cylindrical stick similar to common drinking straws, to which is securely inserted a holding stick attachment **101a'**. In this alternate embodiment the holding stick attachment **101a'** is of male type, provided with a lower stem **112**. The holding stick attachment **101a'** is securely fitted to the hollow holding stick **101'** by tight fit, using a currently available non-toxic adhesive or by any suitable procedure. In this embodiment, the top end **103'** of the holding stick attachment **101a'** is split open, allowing the elastic inward depression of the resilient retaining elements **104'**, which consist in a pair of opposite upper flexible latches, to allow the attachment and retention of the movable edible piece **102'**, shaped like an inverted truncated cone or inverted little bell, so that the throat **109'**, located in this case at an intermediate section of the interior cavity **108'**, is engaged at the neck space **106'** of the holding stick attachment **101a'**, located between the upper flexible latches **104'** and the stop **105'**. In this view, as in **FIG. 1C**, can be appreciated the free space between the interior cavity in the movable edible piece and the holding stick attachment, such that said movable edible piece **102'**, though reliably retained in axial position, is free to swing and/or swivel in relation to the holding stick **101'**, in a sort of random dancing motions, when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently flipped, shaken or revolved manually by the user. Furthermore, when the movable edible piece is being

consumed, inside the consumer's mouth, it may be sucked, licked and moved by the user's tongue in a way very similar to the possible movements of common candies which, unlike known lollipops, are not restrained by tightly inserted holding sticks.

[0074] FIGS. 2A thru 2E illustrate another possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with a simple holding stick combined with an alternate embodiment of a movable edible piece, which is provided with an optional edible plug.

[0075] In FIG. 2A is shown an exploded elevation view of a possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop. At the lower part of the figure, is shown a **holding stick 201**, which consists in a cylindrical stick with its lower end **207** rounded, and with the core section of its upper end tip **103** reduced and provided with resilient retaining elements **104**, comprising, in turn, opposite thin rounded fin like tiny elements like those referred to for the first time in FIG. 1C, whose normally expanded width is slightly larger than the section of the body of the holding stick, forming a smaller section space or neck **106**, which is below, adjacent to said retaining elements **104**, adopting a configuration similar to the upper portion of the holding stick attachment **101a** previously shown in FIGS. 1A thru 1D .

[0076] In the same FIG. 2A, above the holding stick, is shown an axial section view of a movable piece **102**, like that referred to for the first time in FIG. 1A, with the configuration of a sphere, in which the interior cavity **108** has the shape of a tapered hole, with the lower end opening reduced to form the throat **109**. The size of the throat **109** is slightly smaller than the width of the normally expanded flexible round fin like retaining elements **104**, and slightly smaller than the diameter of the body of the holding stick **201** previously described, and shown below in FIG. 2A. At the same time, said throat **109** is slightly larger than the width of the section at the neck space **106** of the holding stick.

[0077] (~~DELETED~~)

[0078] On top of **FIG. 2A** is shown an axial section view of an edible plug **213**, in this particular embodiment configured as a tapered cylinder with a flat upper surface.

[0079] In **FIG. 2B** is shown an axial section view of the same possible embodiment completely assembled of the dancing toy lollipop previously shown exploded in **FIG. 2A**, with the **holding stick 201**, the movable edible piece **102** and the edible plug **213**. As can be seen in this figure, the resilient retaining elements **104**, prevent said movable edible piece **102** from going out upward easily, because their normal expanded width is slightly larger than the diameter of the throat **109** at the bottom of the interior cavity **108** in said movable edible piece and, on the other hand, said throat is slightly smaller than the main body section of the holding stick **201**, so that said movable edible piece may not slip down either. In this figure can be seen also that there is a significant gap between the interior cavity **108** of the movable edible piece **102** and the upper tip portion **103** of the holding stick **201** with the expanded resilient retaining elements **104**. Therefore, though said movable edible piece is retained in a reliable axial position, it is free to rotate, swing and/or swivel in relation to the holding stick **201**, as illustrated by the dotted line contours, in a sort of dancing random movements, whenever the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently flipped, shaken or revolved by the user's hand as indicated by the arrow **M3**.

[0080] **FIG. 3** illustrates another possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with a simple holding stick combined with another possible embodiment of movable edible piece integrated by two halves.

[0081] In this figure is shown an elevation view illustrating an alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop comprising a holding stick **301**, provided with a spherical rigid stop at its top end stop **303** and two symmetrical hollow semi spherical candy halves **302a**, shown in axial section, which are joined together around the top end stop **303** of

the holding stick **301**. Each half movable edible piece may be of different color, flavor and shape, to please the variety of preferences of the consumers.

[0082] The union of both halves may be achieved by any appropriate procedure such as an edible and currently available sugar-based adhesive. In this figure can be appreciated that both halves integrate a spherical hollow movable edible piece **302**, with its interior cavity in the form of a spherical chamber, substantially larger than the top end stop **303** but with a narrow opening or throat **309** at its bottom, such that said movable edible piece **302**, after its assembling, cannot be removed from the holding stick **301**, but is free to rotate, swing and/or swivel in relation to said holding stick, when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently flipped, shaken or revolved by the user's hand.

[0083] In **FIG. 4** is shown an axial section view of another alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, comprising a single movable edible piece **402** with cylindrical shape, and a holding stick **401** provided at its top end **403** with the resilient retaining elements **404**, consisting in opposite laterally protruding resilient pins, which can be elastically bent downward to allow the insertion of the holding stick **401** into the interior cavity **408** inside the movable edible piece **402**, which is open at its bottom, while said cavity, in turn, is provided with transverse holes **408'**, into which the resilient retaining pins **404** expand, thereof retaining in axial position the edible piece **402** onto the holding stick **401**, but with a loose articulated union that allows swinging movements of said movable edible piece in relation to said holding stick, when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently moved by the user.

[0084] **FIG. 5** illustrates another possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with a holding stick provided with a movable attachment, around which is tightly molded the candy mass.

[0085] In this figure is shown an axial section view of an alternate embodiment of a combined holding stick for the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention,

comprising a basic holding stick **501**, which consists in a cylindrical stick with a semispherical top end stop **503**, and a movable attachment **514**, consisting in a thin wall hollow cylindrical shell or socket closed at its upper end.

[0086] Said movable attachment 514 is assembled to the top end stop **503** of the holding stick **501** with the shell constricted below said top end stop to a diameter smaller than the top end stop diameter, forming a throat **509** and a union with the holding stick that behaves as a sort of universal joint, such that said movable attachment cannot be disassembled from the holding stick **501**, while its loose fit allows said movable attachment to move in relation to the holding stick when the dancing toy lollipop provided with such type of combined holding stick is conveniently moved by the user.

[0087] This embodiment of dancing toy lollipop is completed by a manufacturing process similar to current processes, wherein the candy mass is tightly molded around the movable shell attachment **514**, integrating with it a movable edible piece **502**, with spherical shape, like some movable edible pieces shown in other figures. However this embodiment, like that described in **FIG. 3** and unlike most embodiments of dancing toy lollipops, does not allow an active participation of the user in its assembling, because factory procedures and tooling are required.

[0088] The holding stick **501** and its top end stop **503** may adopt many different configurations, and can be made using diverse materials, so as the movable attachment **514**, which can be made of different suitable materials with appropriate chemical and mechanical properties and the movable edible pieces, which can be made in diverse colors, flavors and shapes.

[0089] In **FIGS. 6A** thru **6I** are shown magnified details of some different alternate configurations of upper portions of holding sticks, provided with several possible embodiments of retaining means for the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, located in different positions on the holding sticks. The purpose of the

retaining means is to retain the movable edible pieces of the dancing toy lollipop, shown in other figures, assembled to the holding stick in the desired axial positions, but with a loose connection between said movable edible pieces and the holding stick, because when the retaining elements expand inside the interior cavity of said movable pieces, there is a wide empty space or clearance between the expanded retaining elements and the interior cavity, such that said retaining means allow (not cause) the motions of said movable edible pieces in relation to the holding stick, when the user holding the dancing toy lollipop conveniently moves it with his/her hand. These alternate embodiments of retaining means at the upper portions of holding sticks have been or will be referred to and described in other figures.

[0090] FIGS. 7A thru 7H illustrate two different possible embodiments of holding sticks that interact with two possible embodiments of sliding retaining elements, which may be used optionally in alternate embodiments of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, as will be shown in other figures.

[0091] In FIG. 7A is shown an elevation view of an alternate preferred embodiment of the holding stick 701, in which the top end 303 has the configuration of a sphere like that referred to for the first time in FIG. 3A, performing as rigid stop, with its diameter slightly larger than the holding stick body, which, in turn, is provided with a series of notches 715 along its surface, in a rack like pattern, while the lower end 207 of the holding stick, in this case the entry end, is rounded, like that shown for the first time in FIG. 2A.

[0092] In FIG. 7B is shown an elevation view of the same holding stick 701 illustrated in FIG. 7A, looking in the direction indicated by the arrow III in said figure. In this view can be seen the unidirectional profile of the notches 715, which allows upward and opposes downward displacements.

[0093] In **FIG. 7C** is shown an elevation view of an alternate embodiment of the holding stick **701'** with a smooth elongated body and with a spherical top end stop **303**.

[0099] In **FIG. 7D** is shown a top view of a possible embodiment of a sliding retaining element **716**, to be used in combination with the rack type holding stick **701**, configured like a sort of conical flange **717** with a bored center hub **718**.

[0100] In **FIG. 7E** is shown an axial section view of the sliding retaining element **716** shown in **FIG 7D**, through the plane designated by the line **IV-IV** in said figure, wherein can be seen its central hub **718**, with an axial bore to allow the insertion through it of the holding stick **701**.

[0101] In **FIG. 7F** is shown a magnified detail view of the encircled area designated by the arrow **V** in **FIG. 7E**, showing a resilient flap type unidirectional locking element **719**, located at the cylindrical wall of the bored center hub and angularly protruding toward the axis of the hub, whose function is to engage into a matching notch on the rack type holding stick **701** to lock in axial position the sliding retaining element **717**, preventing it from slipping down, but easily allowing its upward displacement by the user.

[0102] Combining a rack type holding stick **701** and a sliding retaining element **716** provided with a lock element **719**, the user may assemble and disassemble the dancing toy lollipop, removing the sliding retaining element **716** from the holding stick **701**. To remove the sliding retaining element from the holding stick, it is only necessary for the user to rotate said sliding retaining element either clockwise or counterclockwise, so that the resilient locking element **719** is pushed out, disengaged from the notch, and rotated to the smooth surface area of the holding stick body, so that the sliding retaining element is released and free to be displaced along the holding stick in any direction. This useful feature allows the user to create different combinations of movable edible pieces, not shown, or to replace those already consumed.

[0103] In **FIG. 7G** is shown an axial section view of another alternate embodiment of sliding retaining element **716'**, to be used in combination with the smooth body holding stick **701'**, being said sliding retaining element provided with a central hub **718'** with an axial tapered bore, and at opposite sides of said hub, protrude angularly downward a sort of small levers **722**, resembling doll legs in this case, which the user may push inwardly with his/her fingers as indicated by the arrows **M4**, to expand the upper and smaller end of the tapered hole of the hub **718'**, as indicated by the arrow **M5**, thanks to a pair of opposite slits along the walls of the bored central hub which can be seen magnified in **FIG. 7H**.

[0104] In **FIG. 7H** is shown a magnified detail view of the encircled area designated by the arrow **VI** in **FIG. 7G**. In this figure can be clearly seen that at the upper and smaller end **720** of the tapered hole **721**, the bored central hub **718'**, has two 180 degrees opposite slits **723**, cut at a plane rotated 90 degrees relative to the protruding levers **722**, being the normal diameter of said smaller end **720** slightly smaller than the diameter of the smooth body section of the holding stick **701'**, in order to provide an elastic tight fit between both components, being said fit tight enough to accomplish the desired retaining function. To displace toward the top end of the smooth body holding stick **701'** the lower movable edible pieces, or to remove the sliding retaining element **716'** to assemble new replacement movable edible pieces, the user moves the sliding retaining element along the holding stick, releasing it by pressing its levers **722** inwardly, as explained in **FIG. 7G**, elastically expanding the slits **723**, so that the upper smaller end **720** of the tapered hole **721** expands to a size slightly larger than the holding stick section, as illustrated by the dashed line contours, and then the sliding retaining element **716'** may be easily displaced upward or downward along the holding stick **701'** as desired by the user .

[0105] In addition, said sliding retaining elements described above, may be used as finger guards to prevent the direct contact of the user's hand with the movable edible pieces, contributing to a cleaner and more hygienic handling of the dancing toy lollipop

[0106] FIGS. 8A thru 8H illustrate axial section views of different alternate embodiments of movable edible pieces for the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, varying in external shape and in the configuration and position of the interior cavity. These configurations of movable edible pieces have been and will be shown in other figures.

[0107] FIGS. 9A thru 9C illustrate a preferred embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, wherein an alternate embodiment of the holding stick is combined with two possible embodiments of movable edible pieces stacked one above the other.

[0108] In FIG. 9A is shown an axial section view of an alternate preferred embodiment of the present invention at rest or central position, comprising a holding stick 901 with the configuration of a cylindrical stick, similar to that previously shown in FIG. 6B, and two movable edible pieces, one above the other. The upper one has the shape of a sphere resembling a stylized doll head 902, like that shown in FIG. 8E, while the lower movable edible piece 102' is configured as a truncated cone, resembling a little bell or a stylized doll skirt, like that shown for the first time in FIG. 1E. The plug 913 is an optional piece, similar to that shown in FIG. 2 identified as 213, but with its outer surface convex instead of flat. Said plug 913 is tightly and securely inserted into the upper outer opening of the upper movable edible piece 902, with the aid of pressure, heat, an edible sugar based adhesive or any other suitable procedure.

[0109] From this central position, both movable edible pieces 902 and 102' may swing or rock in any direction in relation to the holding stick 901, as indicated by the arrows M3 and M6, when the toy lollipop is conveniently flipped or shaken by the user's hand.

In addition, the movable edible pieces **902** and **102'** are free to be rotated by the user around the holding stick **901**.

[0110] In **FIG. 9B** is shown the same preferred embodiment of the present invention, shown in **FIG. 9A**, with the movable edible pieces **902** and **102'** rocked or swung to the left, as indicated by the arrows **M7** and **M8**.

[0111] In **FIG. 9C** is shown the same preferred embodiment of the present invention, shown in **FIGS. 9A** and **9B**, with the movable edible pieces **902** and **102'** rocked or swung to the right, as indicated by the arrows **M9** and **M10**.

[0112] (~~DELETED~~)

[0113] **FIGS. 10A** thru **10C** illustrate in magnified details the preferred embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop previously shown in **FIGS. 9A** thru **9C**, to teach the behavior of the particular type of resilient retaining means used in said embodiment, during the assembling process either by the user or the manufacturer.

[0114] In **FIG. 10A** is shown a magnified axial section view of the same embodiment of the present invention previously illustrated in **FIGS. 9A** thru **9C**, showing the upper portion of the holding stick **901**, during the assembling of a movable edible piece **102'** to it. In this view can be observed that the resilient retaining elements **1004**, conformed like a miniature slotted arrow at the top end **1003** of the holding stick **901**, are elastically depressed inwardly toward the axis of said holding stick, when the narrow section or throat **109'** in the interior cavity **108'** of the movable edible piece **102'** is slid over them, closing the gap between the inner walls of the slot **1024**, which, at the instant shown, is partially collapsed, thus reducing the width of the holding stick **901** at the section where said resilient retaining elements **1004** are located, in such a way, that momentarily, the exterior section width of the retaining elements becomes substantially equal to the width or diameter of the throat **109'** in the interior cavity **108'** of the movable edible piece

102', allowing the axial displacement of said movable edible piece **102'** in the direction indicated by the arrow **M1**, toward the neck space **1006**. From there, the movable edible piece may be displaced toward the rigid stop **1025** below, adjacent above the grip portion of the holding stick **901**, passing over the second resilient bi-directional resilient retaining elements **1005**, which, in turn, are depressed in the same way described above for the resilient retaining elements **1004**.

[0115] In **FIG. 10B** is illustrated a top view of the embodiment shown in **FIG. 10A**, looking in the direction indicated by the arrow **VII** in said figure.

[0116] In **FIG. 10C** is shown a magnified axial section view of the same upper portion of the dancing toy lollipop illustrated in **FIG. 10A**, with the upper and lower movable edible pieces **902** and **102'** in their respective final positions on the holding stick **901**, after having been completed the assembling process, either by the user, or at the factory. In this enlarged view can be seen that, due to the configuration and size of the interior cavity **108'** in the upper movable edible piece **902**, both resilient retaining elements **1004** and **1005** are able to recover elastically their normally expanded position inside the interior cavity of the movable edible pieces **902** and **102'**, respectively. In that condition, the inner edge at the throat **109'** inside the interior cavity of the upper movable edible piece **902**, is engaged at the narrow neck space **1006**, while the normally expanded resilient retaining elements **1004**, impede said upper movable edible piece **902** to move up and go out easily of the holding stick **901**. At the same time, said upper movable edible piece **902** is also prevented to slip down by the lower bi-directional resilient retaining elements **1005** or by the lower movable edible piece **102'**, located below and previously assembled to the holding stick **901**. This lower movable edible piece **102'**, in turn, is prevented to slip down further and out from the holding stick **901**, by the rigid stop **1025**, which is slightly larger than the diameter of the throat **109'** in said movable edible piece **102'**. However, the assembling cavities **108'** of both movable edible pieces **902** and **102'**, are substantially wider than the retaining elements and, at the same time, the diameters of the throats **109'** inside the assembling cavities **108'** of both movable

edible pieces 902 and 102', are slightly larger than the section of the holding stick 901 at the neck space 1006 and than the cylindrical body of said holding stick 901. Therefore both movable edible pieces 902 and 102', though reliably retained in axial position, are free to be swung, rocked, swiveled and/or rotated in relation to said holding stick 901, when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently moved by the user.

[0117] Depending upon the friction between the movable edible pieces and the way in which the lollipop is moved by the user's hand, the movements of said movable edible pieces vary greatly, in random patterns and combinations that, eventually, resemble funny and pleasant dancing movements. The movable edible pieces of the present invention also increase the user's pleasure due to the multiple possible movements when said edible pieces are sucked or licked inside the user's mouth, almost as freely as common candies, without rigidly inserted sticks typical in prior art lollipops.

[0118] When the upper movable edible piece 902 is worn out, the user may consume the lower movable edible piece 102' in its low position or, optionally, may displace it upward to the neck space 1006 to the position previously occupied by the worn out movable edible piece 902, passing over the bi-directional resilient retaining elements 1005, whose shape allows the displacement of the movable edible piece 102' in both axial directions, when the user, with little effort, moves it toward the desired position where said movable edible piece remains held at the neck 1006 between both retaining means 1004 and 1005.

[0119] FIGS. 11A thru 11C illustrate an alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, comprising a cylindrical holding stick combined with a single spherical movable edible piece.

[0120] In FIG. 11A is shown an axial section view illustrating, at rest or central position, an alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with a single spherical movable edible piece 902, like that referred to for the

first time in **FIG. 9A**, assembled to a possible embodiment of the holding stick **1101**, with the configuration of its upper tip almost like that previously described in **FIG. 10A**, but with a slight difference due to the missing rigid lower stop shown in said figure. The arrow **M3** indicates the possible rocking or swinging motion of the movable edible piece **902** in relation to the holding stick **1101** when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently moved by the user.

[0121] In **FIG. 11B** is shown an axial section view of the same embodiment shown in **FIG. 11A**, illustrating the movable edible piece **902** rocked or swung to the left, as indicated by the arrow **M7**.

[0122] In **FIG. 11C** is shown an axial section view of the same embodiment shown in **FIGS. 11A** and **11B**, illustrating the movable edible piece **902** rocked or swung to the right, as indicated by the arrow **M9**

[0123] **FIGS. 12A** and **12B** illustrate other alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention combining three movable edible pieces with different geometrical configurations.

[0124] In **FIG. 12A** is shown an elevation view of an alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop, comprising a holding stick **901**, like that referred to for the first time in **FIG. 9A** and described in **FIG. 10A**, to which are assembled three movable edible pieces, with different configurations and sizes, stacked one above the other on the upper portion of said holding stick **901**, previously shown in **FIG. 6B** and others. In this case, the lower and larger movable edible piece **1202** has the shape of a flat cylinder; the intermediate movable edible piece **1202'**, has the shape of a flat prism with square section and the upper and smaller movable edible piece **1202''** has the shape of a flat prism with triangular section. The arrow **M11** indicates possible directions of rocking motion of the movable edible piece when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently moved by the user.

[0125] In **FIG. 12B** is shown a top view of the same embodiment shown in **FIG. 12A**, in the direction of the arrow **VIII** . The arrow **M12** indicates possible directions of rotational motion of the movable edible pieces **102**, being said motion caused by the action of the user.

[0126] The assembling cavities of all three movable edible pieces, as shown in **FIG. 8H** are randomly eccentrically located, what facilitates to impart rotation to the movable edible pieces when the user revolves the holding stick **901** in a planetary motion mode.

[0127] - [0142] (~~DELETED~~)

[0143] **FIGS. 13A** thru **13C** illustrate a relatively complex alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, combined with several movable edible pieces and inedible components, resembling a little dancing doll, standing on a rocking base.

[0144] In **FIG. 13A** is shown a perspective view of an assembly of dancing toy lollipop resembling a little dancing doll, at rest or central position, comprising six independent components: the holding stick **901**, like that referred to for the first time in **FIG. 9A** and described in **FIG. 10A**; two movable edible pieces, one on the top, resembling the head **902**, with a candy plug **913** closing its upper opening, like those referred to for the first time in **FIG. 9A**, and the other, below, resembling the skirt **102'**, like that referred to for the first time in **FIG. 1E**, in inverted position; an upper intermediate movable piece **1326** resembling the torso and arms of the little doll, which may be either edible or inedible, and is located between both movable edible pieces **902** and **102'**; and the lower inedible piece **716'** resembling the legs of the little doll, which at the same time is a sliding retaining element like that referred to for the first time in **FIG. 7G**.

[0145] This alternate embodiment, as most of them, may be supported on a rocking base 1327, with its lower surface configured as a section of a sphere, in order to rock or swing over a suitable surface whenever it is moved by the user.

[0146] In FIG. 13B is shown a front view of the same embodiment shown in FIG. 13A, illustrating an instant of a possible dancing like motion of the toy lollipop, in which the rocking base 1327, on a flat surface 1328, is inclined to the left, while the arms 1326 are swung to the right, and the movable edible piece 902 resembling the head at the top with the plug 913 and the movable edible piece 102' resembling the skirt below, are swung to the left, as indicated by the arrow M7.

[0147] In FIG. 13C is shown a front view of the same embodiment shown in FIGS. 13A and 13B, in an instant position of movement, in which the rocking base 1327 on a flat surface 1328, is inclined to the right, while the arms 1326 are swung to the left, and the movable edible pieces 902, resembling the head at the top with the plug 913 and the movable edible piece 102' resembling the skirt below, are swung to the right as indicated by the arrow M9.

[0148] ~~(DELETED)~~

[0149] Depending upon the way in which the dancing toy lollipop is shaken, flipped, revolved or rocked on the rocking base, or held on the user's hand, the movable pieces of the toy lollipop will oscillate to one side or the other, and/or rotate in many different possible motion combinations, producing amusing and entertaining dancing like motion effects. In all cases, said motions must be caused by the action of the user.

[0150] FIGS. 14A thru 14D illustrate another alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, resembling a little dancing doll, combining a specially configured holding stick with several movable edible pieces and inedible components, some of them similar to those previously shown and referred to for the first

time in **FIGS. 13A** thru **13C**, but in these case provided with an optional flat supporting base which is stationary.

[0151] In **FIG.14A** is shown an elevation view of another embodiment of multi candy dancing toy lollipop resembling a little dancing doll **1400**, standing on a static supporting base **1427**. This alternate preferred embodiment comprises two movable edible pieces: one with spherical configuration on top, resembling the head of the doll **902**, with an edible plug **913**, securely inserted to close its outer opening, both pieces similar to those referred to for the first time in **FIG. 9A**, and below, the lower movable edible piece **1402**, resembling the skirt of the little dancing doll, almost like the movable edible piece **1302** previously shown in **FIGS. 13A** thru **13C**, but slightly different due to its outer curved lateral surface; both movable edible pieces are separated by an intermediate component **1326**, exactly like that referred to for the first time in **FIGS. 13A**, resembling the torso and extended arms of the doll, which may be , either an edible piece or an inedible component made of plastic or any other suitable material. All those pieces, are assembled to the holding stick **1401**, also made of plastic or any suitable material, and specially configured, such that its grip portion **1401a** resembles the legs of the dancing doll, while its lower end tip, not shown in this figure, is designed to be inserted into the optional stationary base **1427**, which, in turn, is made of plastic or any other suitable material and is provided with a flat lower surface to keep the dancing toy lollipop vertically on any appropriate surface **1328**, as shown in **FIG. 13A**, such as a table top.

[0152] In **FIG. 14B** is shown a top view of the same embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop shown in **FIG.14A**.

[0153] In **FIG. 14C** is shown a front axial section view of the same embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop shown in **FIGS. 14A** and **14B**. This view illustrates the internal configuration of the movable edible pieces **902** and **1402**, and the intermediate movable piece **1326**, all provided with interior cavities **108'** and assembled to the holding stick

1401, in such a way, that said movable edible pieces **902** and **1402**, and the intermediate movable piece **1326**, though retained in axial position by the retaining means on the holding stick, are free to be swiveled or swung to any side in relation to said holding stick **1401**, when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently flipped, shaken or revolved by the user's hand. In this view is also shown the holding stick grip portion **1401a** resembling the legs of the doll, and its lower end tip **1429**, inserted into the hole **1430** located at the center of the base **1427** and properly configured and dimensioned to securely fit into it the lower end tip **1429** of the holding stick **1401**, in order to keep the lollipop in vertical position on a flat surface **1328**, when it is not being held by the user. In addition, the optional base **1427** is provided with an outer rim edge **1431** conveniently configured and dimensioned for a purpose that will be explained further in **FIGS. 23A** and **23B**.

[0154] In **FIG. 14D** is shown the embodiment of the holding stick **1401** for the alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop shown in **FIGS. 14A** thru **14C**, illustrating its main parts: the top resilient retaining elements **1004** located near the top end **1003**; the neck space **1006**; the lower bi-directional resilient retaining elements **1005**, all said three parts like those referred to for the first time in **FIG. 10A**; the grip portion **1401a**, resembling the doll legs and, at the same time, acting as lower rigid stop for the movable edible pieces; above. This holding stick is provided with a lower end tip **1429**, to insert the holding stick into the optional base **1427**, as shown in **FIG. 14C**.

[0155] ~~(DELETED)~~

[0156] In **FIG. 15** is shown an elevation view of another embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, in which the holding stick **1501** resembles a ramified plant stem with one main and central holding stick **1501**, and two lateral branches **1501a**, all provided with decorative elements **1532** resembling leaves, while to each of the three tips of said ramified holding stick, is assembled a movable edible

piece 1502, resembling small fruits, all of them with the optional candy plugs 913, like that referred to for the first time in FIG. 9A, closing their outer openings.

[0157] In FIG. 16 is shown an elevation view of another embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, in which the holding stick 1501 has the same configuration referred to for the first time in FIG. 15, but in this alternate possible embodiment the movable edible pieces 1602 assembled to each end tip, resemble little flowers.

[0158] These, and in general almost all possible embodiments of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, may be provided with optional bases, as shown in FIGS. 13A and 14A, to hold the dancing toy lollipop in a vertical position on any appropriate surface, when the lollipop is not being held by the user.

[0159] In FIG. 17 is shown an elevation view of another alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, in which the holding stick 1701 is ramified in three smooth holding sticks, each with a movable edible piece, 102', resembling an inverted little bell or stylized flower, similar to that referred to for the first time in FIG. 1E.

[0160] In FIG.18 is shown an elevation view of another alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, illustrating a holding stick 1801 with the configuration of a trident, provided with holding attachments 101a on each tip end, similar to that referred to for the first time in FIG. 1A, while to each of them is assembled a movable edible piece 102, like that referred to for the first time in said figure.

[0161] - [0162] (DELETED)

[0163] **FIGS 19A and 19B** illustrate in axial section views another alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, provided with several stacked movable edible pieces retained in the desired axial position by a sliding retaining element, which allows the manual upward displacement by the user of the remaining movable edible pieces when the top one has been consumed.

[0164] In **FIG. 19A** is shown an axial section view of an alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, with a rack like type holding stick **701**, like that referred to for the first time in **FIG. 7A**, provided with a series of notches **715** along its upper portion and with a rigid spherical stop at its top end **303**, like that referred to for the first time in **FIG. 3A**, wherein is assembled to said holding stick one movable edible piece **1902**, like that previously shown in **FIG. 8E**, with the shape of a small sphere, and below are also assembled, stacked one above the other, several other movable edible pieces **1902'**, in this case four, shaped like biconvex lenses, or stylized rattlesnake tail disks, as those shown in **FIG. 8F**, while under the lower one is attached a sliding retaining element **716** like that referred to for the first time in **FIG. 7D**, provided with a locking element **719** which engages to a matching notch **715** on the holding stick **701**, to keep all the movable edible pieces above it retained in the desired axial position.

[0165] In **FIG. 19B** is shown a second view of the same possible embodiment previously shown in **FIG. 19A**, wherein the four movable edible pieces **1902'** have been displaced upward, as indicated by the arrow **M13**, after having been consumed the upper movable edible piece **1902**. To accomplish said displacement, the user manually pushes upward the sliding retaining element **716** until its locking element **719** engages to another notch **715** nearer to the top end **303** of the holding stick **701**.

[0166] In this particular possible embodiment, as in some others, the rounded lower end **207**, like that referred to for the first time in **FIG. 2A**, is the entry end for the assembly

to the holding stick 701 of all the movable edible pieces, 1902 and 1902', as well as for the sliding retaining element 716.

[0167] As was explained in FIG. 7D to 7F, the sliding retaining element 716 may be removed by the user to replace the consumed movable edible pieces, or to assemble different combinations of the dancing toy lollipop.

[0168] In FIG. 20 is shown an elevation view of other possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention similar to that previously shown in FIGS. 19A and 19B, at rest or central position designated by the arrow IX, from where the holding stick 701 may be elastically flexed to any side to make it oscillate or vibrate as indicated by the arrow M14, between extreme lateral positions illustrated by dashed line contours, and designated by the arrows X and XI. In this alternate embodiment, the holding stick 701 is of the rack type like that referred to for the first time in FIG. 7A, being said holding stick made of a suitable resilient material. At the top position is assembled a movable edible piece 1902, like that shown in FIG. 19A with the shape of a small sphere, and under it are assembled several other movable edible pieces 1902', in this case seven, stacked one above the other, shaped like biconvex lenses or stylized rattlesnake tail disks, like those referred to for the first time in FIG. 19A. All the eight movable edible pieces are prevented from going up and out of the holding stick 701 by the top end stop 303, previously shown in FIG. 10A and others, and are prevented from slipping down by the sliding retaining element 716 like that referred to for the first time in FIG. 7D. This embodiment allows the user to make the holding stick elastically oscillate laterally, as indicated by the arrow M14, like a sort of edible rattle toy, when it is conveniently moved by the user's hand.

[0169] In this embodiment, as in all provided with multiple movable edible pieces, the user may displace progressively upward the remaining lower movable edible pieces, as the uppermost one has been consumed, keeping all the movable edible pieces retained in the desired axial position on the holding stick 701, in this case by means of the sliding

retaining element **716** provided with an appropriate locking element, not visible but previously shown in **FIGS. 7D to 7F**, which engages to the rack notches of the holding stick **701**, previously shown in **FIG. 7A** and others.

[0170] In addition, as in other embodiments previously described, the sliding retaining element **716** also accomplishes the function of fingers guard preventing the direct contact of the user's fingers with the movable edible pieces **2502'**.

[0171] In **FIG. 21** is shown an elevation view of another possible embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention similar to that previously shown in **FIG. 20**, but wherein the lower end of the holding stick **701** is securely inserted into a grip portion attachment **2101a** made of flexible malleable material, resembling a little stylized rattlesnake body. In this alternate embodiment the rattling tail is resembled by the movable edible pieces **1902** and **1902'** retained in position by the sliding retaining element **716**, and assembled to the elastic holding stick **701**, which can be made oscillate manually by the user, as indicated by the arrow **M14**, while the flexible body of the grip portion **2101a** has its lower free end **2133** resembling a stylized snake head, and may be wound in turns **2134** so that it may be placed in a standing position on a table or on any appropriate surface and may also be embraced to any suitable support.

[0172] **FIGS 22A and 22B** illustrate an alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, in which a main or primary holding stick has several movable attachments, each provided with several secondary short holding sticks securely inserted while a small movable edible piece is assembled to each short holding stick.

[0173] In **FIG. 22A** is shown an axial section view of an alternate embodiment, comprising a main or primary holding stick **2201** to which are assembled three movable attachments **2235**, each of them with several short holding sticks **2201a**, six in this case, securely inserted, while to each of said short holding sticks, in turn, is assembled one

movable edible piece **2202**, with a shape similar to the movable edible piece **1902**, referred to for the first time in **FIG. 19**, but substantially smaller. The movable attachments **2235** are provided with cavities similar to the cavities in the movable edible pieces previously described in other figures and thereof, said movable attachments may swing or swivel independently in relation to the main holding stick **2201**, as indicated by the arrow **M15**, moving at the same time the short holding sticks **2801a** inserted into them, while each movable edible piece **2202**, in turn, may move in diverse ways in relation to its corresponding short holding stick **2201a**, oscillating as indicated by the arrow **M3**; turning as indicated by the arrow **M16** and/or sliding out and in as indicated by the arrow **M17**, being all said kind of motions manually caused when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently moved by the user.

[0174] In **FIG. 22B** is shown a top view of the same embodiment shown in **FIG. 22A**, wherein the arrow **M18** indicates that each group of movable edible pieces assembled to the short holding sticks of each movable attachment **2235**, may rotate randomly in any direction, when the dancing toy lollipop is conveniently moved by the user. The movable attachments, as well as the short sticks, may be either inedible or edible, and in this, as in all possible embodiments of the dancing toy lollipop object of the present invention, the movable edible pieces may have different sizes, shapes, colors and flavors.

[0175] - [0179] (~~DELETED~~)

[0180] **FIGS 23A** and **23B** illustrate a possible protecting transparent case for the embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop resembling a little dancing doll shown in **FIG. 14A**.

[0181] In **FIG. 23A** is shown a frontal elevation view of the assembly **1400** of the alternate embodiment of the dancing toy lollipop previously shown in **FIG. 14A**, resembling a little dancing doll, standing on an optional base **1427** also previously shown in said figure, which is placed on a flat surface **1328**, while the lollipop is under a

transparent cover 2336 conveniently fitted to the outer rim 1431 of said base 1427 to protect the dancing toy lollipop from undesirable contact with insects, dust, etc., when it is not being used.

[0182] In FIG. 23B is shown an elevation view of the transparent cover 2336 whose body consists in a cylindrical wall 2337 with a semispherical closed top 2338. This cover can be made of a transparent thin plastic, employing the same manufacturing process used for the manufacturing of soda containers. Its thickened lower edge 2339 is configured and dimensioned to fit at the outer edge of the rim 1431 of the base 1327.

[0183] The above description with reference to the figures is considered illustrative and not restrictive. The true scope and spirit of the invention resides in the appended claims and their legal equivalents, rather than in the given examples. Modifications and variations on the embodiments described, or known to those skilled in the art, may be made within the scope of the innovative lollipop object of the present invention.